THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

External Publicity on Kashmir Issue

1235. SHRI ANANTRAY DEV-SHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to State:

(a) whether the external publicity being made by India on Kashmir issue has not proved as effective as that of Pakistan as far as influencing of other countries is concerned, particularly Islamic countries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government have sent any delegations abroad in this regard; and

(d) if so, the countries that were visited by these delegations alongwith the results achieved therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Docs not arise.

(c) and (d) Government have not sent any delegations exclusively for this purpose, but most Government delegations visiting abroad utilise the opportunity to brief their foreign interlocutors about Kashmir in addition to discussing other issues of mutual interest. The delegations apprise the concerned Governments and other individuals and organisations who shape opinion and influence decisions, including the mass media, of the factual position on the Kashmir issue, as well as details of Pak sponsored terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, and the realities of the ground situation in the State. There is appreciation of Government of India's position, policy of transparency and determination to ensure that the people of Jammu, and Kashmir are able to enjoy the benefits of a secular, representative democratic polity, as well as appreciation for holding elections in Jammu & Kashmir.

Visa to NRI

1236. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Gujarati NRIs after marriage with Indian girls are facing difficulty in taking their newly married wives to America and other European countries due to visa problem; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take up this issue with the U.S. Government for the issue of necessary visa in respect of the newly wedded couples?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) No specific incident of Gujarati NRIs spouses facing difficulty in obtaining visas to America and other European countries has come to our notice. As per US Immigration Law, all spouse cases for permanent residence in the US are processed separately for grant of visas by the US Embassy. This applies uniformly to spouses not only from all over India but from several other countries as well. Some West European countries take time to process visas for Indian spouses applying to join their husbands/wives.

(b) Since issue of visa is a matter of sovereign policy, Government of India cannot take this up but the Ministry of External Affairs does try to help when inordinate delays are brought to its notice.

US Pressure on Indo-Russian Nuclear Deal

1237. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news reports regarding US pressure on Indo-Russian nuclear deal; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?